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Conservation Pledge

I give my
pledge as an American
to save and faithfully to
defend from waste the
natural resources of
my country—its soil
and minerals, its
forests, waters
and wildlife

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vation of Louisiana's nat-
ural resources by the
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Louisiana has made great strides in its program of restocking areas where deer populations were low or nonexistent. In 1948 the trapping and transplanting of deer was a slow process, but today the Commission employs the use of airplanes, fast boats and even helicopters in its endeavor to furnish more game and sport for outdoorsmen in all parts of the State.

LOUISIANA *Conservationist*

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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Upon Written Request*

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PASS-A-LOUTRE DELTA DUCKS

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DUCK HUNTERS on Pass-a-Loutre Public Shooting Area, located on the lower delta marshes of the Mississippi River, experienced excellent hunting during the 1967-68 waterfowl season. On 22 morning hunts, with sportsmen participating from throughout the state, 5,123 birds were bagged. Sportsmen also experienced one of the mildest duck seasons weatherwise in many a year. Average monthly temperatures for November and December recorded by the Boothville Weather Station were 62.9 and 60.1 respectively. The marshes were in excellent condition with an abundance of natural foods and served to winter many thousands of waterfowl, also favorable weather provided better hunting conditions.

Since its initiation in 1954 the Pass-a-Loutre Hunting program has played host to many thousands of duck hunters throughout the state. This tract of land was set up by an act of the 1921 Louisiana Legislature as a public shooting area and is located at the extreme end of the Mississippi Flyway in Plaquemine Parish. During the past waterfowl season the Refuge Division of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission operated nine public camps and provided transportation from Venice to the hunting area and return. All was made ready for the first group of hunters who arrived on November the 17th. Eleven hunts were conducted throughout

the season, each hunt lasting two days plus an additional day for traveling. Shooting was allowed on four mornings each week, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. This prevented over shooting the area and maintained a huntable concentration of birds throughout the entire duck season.

Interest in duck hunting at Pass-a-Loutre has steadily increased year after year with over 1,939 applications received this year. Applications came from all parts of the state including Monroe, Shreveport, and Alexandria, although the majority of these applications came from the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Hammond and Covington areas. Applications were received from Mississippi although first choice was given to Louisiana hunters. A total of 792 permits were issued with 697 hunters making the trip.

The total kill for waterfowl by hunters participating in the public camp hunting program for the 1967-68 waterfowl season is presented in Table 1. Gadwall ranked first in the bag with 1,527 birds killed. This made up 33 per cent of the total ducks killed. Pintail was second with 827 birds taken, and baldpate was third with 754 birds killed. Lesser scaup ranked fourth with 406 birds tallied. The scaup moved inland about mid-season and at that time appeared in the hunters bag not only as bonus ducks but in some cases made up the entire bag limits.

The average daily kill per hunter effort (3.2) equaled that of the record breaking season of 1966-67. This could be attributed to several factors. First with the early season opening hunters could take advantage of the high tides caused by the prevailing southern winds. This made hunting easier as all parts of marshes were easily accessible to the hunters. Also, the hunters as a general rule who are not familiar with the area were better able to select their hunting blinds.

Table 1
TOTAL KILL BY SPECIES FOR PASS-A-LOUTRE PUBLIC CAMP
1967-68 WATERFOWL SEASON

	Hunt Number											Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Mallards	18	12	19	17	20	15	13	5	9	7	8	143
Gadwall	183	120	126	112	228	114	104	68	155	131	186	1,527
Baldpate	57	59	31	71	73	72	64	76	87	96	68	754
Green-winged Teal ..	36	18	57	9	20	14	10	4	30	19	27	244
Blue-winged Teal	39	28	18	25	19	28	13	9	15	10	19	223
Shoveler	27	33	26	11	10	24	14	11	9	9	27	201
Pintail	75	63	88	131	108	94	63	25	49	64	67	827
Mottled	7	4	7	1	7	5	2	1	3	.....	.....	37
Redhead .....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	4
Canvasback	3	2	2	3	5	.....	.....	3	2	2	1	23
Lesser Scaup	21	18	22	3	3	17	19	60	84	94	65	406
Ringneck	4	3	15	10	19	8	6	4	9	13	.....	91
Ruddy .....	.....	.....	3	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Merganser	6	2	3	.....	3	.....	2	.....	4	.....	1	21
Other .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Total Ducks	476	362	417	395	518	391	317	266	458	445	469	4,507
Total Geese	2	.....	11	6	6	2	.....	.....	3	4	1	35
Total Coots	29	59	55	35	61	37	95	63	93	26	28	581
Grand Total	507	421	483	436	585	430	405	329	554	475	498	5,123

Information on wind velocity and direction taken from the weather station at Boothville, Louisiana for the entire 1967-68 waterfowl season indicates the prevailing winds on the lower delta were from a southerly direction and occasionally shifting to north and northwest. Tides remained well above normal as long as the winds were from a southerly direction. North and northwest winds were after accompanied by rain as this cold front moved into the area. As long as this frontal system remained the weather was clear and tides were well below normal, although heavy cloud cover was sometimes associated with this type of system.

Hunter success could be directly related to the weather conditions existing at that time on the lower delta, as this area is severely affected by tidal flow. Hunter success was highest with the south to southeasterly winds. Also, on the first day of a weather change, to a northerly direction hunter success was high. Each day this northerly wind persisted, tides were below normal and hunter success decreased.

Fog is typical on the lower delta in the early morning hours and late afternoon, but would dissipate shortly after daylight. Although on one hunt this condition lasted two days and greatly reduced the waterfowl kill and hampered boat travel. Hunt number 7 was delayed one day due to the severe fog on the river. The boats left Venice Saturday morning rather than Friday at noon.

The second reason for the heavy duck kill was that the marshes of the lower delta were in excellent condition due to the high river stage of last spring. Although the production of delta

duck potato was not equaled to that of the 1966-67 crop, the aquatic production was excellent. As a result of this several hundred thousand waterfowl wintered on the Pass-a-Loutre this year. Waterfowl inventories conducted throughout the season indicates the peak wintering population of 165,000 duck and 40,000 blue and snow geese. This peak occurred in November and dropped to 76,000 ducks and 10,000 geese in December (Table 2).

In addition to the public camp hunting area the remaining portions of Pass-a-Loutre are open to hunters who have their own equipment. This open area consists of some 40,000 acres of the more remote sections of Pass-a-Loutre. Free permits are issued for the use of this area and hunting success equals that of the public camp hunting section. This area includes the marsh west of South Pass, north of Pass-a-Loutre and east of a line from Jackson Bayou on Pass-a-Loutre, along the north and east shore of Blind Bay and across Southeast Pass following the west shoreline of Red Fish Bay. Permits for each hunter using this area may be obtained by writing to the Refuge Division office in N.O.

Pass-a-Loutre hunters experienced one of the finest duck seasons in many years. Weather conditions were ideal for the most part and shooting was excellent.

Marsh conditions during the summer of 1968 were ideal for the establishment of dense stands of aquatic plants in all of the ponds on Pass-a-Loutre, and the high river stages experienced during the spring and summer deposited silt on the mud flats which in turn encouraged the growth of delta duck potato and fresh water

Table 2
PASS-A-LOUTRE WATERFOWL INVENTORY*
Transect and Total Count, 1967-68

Species	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Mallard .....	.....	1,000	1,500	3,000	500
Black Duck .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gadwall	6,000	8,000	40,000	15,000	37,000
Baldpate	2,000	10,000	63,000	22,000	50,000
Green W. Teal	2,000	11,000	15,000	12,000	1,000
Blue W. Teal	8,000	2,000	4,000	2,000	2,000
Shoveler	1,000	3,000	6,000	5,000	8,000
Pintail	1,000	12,000	27,000	11,000	18,000
Mottled Duck	2,000	2,000	3,000	2,000	300
Wood Duck .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Redhead .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canvasback .....	.....	500	1,000	1,000	100
Scaup .....	.....	1,000	3,000	2,000	4,000
Ringneck .....	.....	500	1,000	500	.....
Ruddy .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Merganser .....	.....	200	500	500	.....
Total	22,000	51,200	165,000	76,000	120,900
Canada Geese .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	**
Whitefront Geese .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	**
Blue & Snow Geese .....	.....	15,000	40,000	10,000	**
Total .....	.....	15,000	40,000	10,000	**
Coots	3,000	25,000	40,000	20,000	**

*Waterfowl inventory flown by Clark Hoffpauer, La. Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.
**Not censused.

three-square. It is anticipated that these conditions will again attract a large wintering population of waterfowl to Pass-a-Loutre for the 1968-69 waterfowl hunting season.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Make application direct to Larry McNease, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.
2. You may apply in a group not to exceed eight (8) persons, naming each person in the application.
3. No person may submit more than one application for each week. A second choice for the other hunt that week should be indicated, if possible, in this application. If the name of any person is received in more than one application for the same week, it will be disqualified.
4. You must make application for the hunts desired as specified below.
5. Be sure to specify the dates you wish to hunt, and your mailing address.
6. All applications must be made THROUGH THE U. S. MAIL and postmarked during

the application dates for the hunt as listed in the table below.

7. The two-day hunting trip fee is \$5.00. No refunds can be made if you fail to meet the boat; permits can be transferred. Enclose check or money order in full amount for your party. If not selected, full refund will be made.
8. Facilities limited to men over 16; persons under 18 must be accompanied by parent or guardian.
9. Seventy-two hunters can be accommodated on each hunt. Camps will be assigned by Commission personnel in charge.
10. No rifles, private boats or motors are allowed. DON'T BRING ANY!
11. Duck, goose, and coot shooting only is permitted. Waterfowl retrievers may be used.

*Application Period

Application Period	Drawing	Hunting Dates
Nov. 25-Dec. 2	Dec. 5	Dec. 14 & 15; 17 & 18.
Dec. 2-Dec. 9	Dec. 12	Dec. 21 & 22; 28 & 29.
Dec. 9-Dec. 16	Dec. 19	Dec. 31 & Jan. 1; 4 & 5.
Dec. 16-Dec. 23	Dec. 30	Jan. 7 & 8; 11 & 12.

*Letters must be postmarked between these dates and received prior to drawing.

REVISED JULY 15, 1968

LOUISIANA FISH RECORDS

Fresh Water Records

BASS, LARGEMOUTH

- 11-11, Elwin Husser, Nov. 1958
- 11-6, Zeke Davis, March 1962
- 11-0, Robert Berry, March 1959
- 10-6, Rufus Williams, Aug. 1956
- 10-4, Nat Smith, 1958
- 10-1, J. E. Stewart, 1957
- 10-0, George Berger, Jan. 1960
- 10-0, George Wilson, March 1950
- 9-14, Henry H. Harris, March 1964

BASS, SPOTTED (Kentucky)

- 4-3, Carroll Perkins
- 2-15, Dr. Lyle St. Amant, Aug. 1965
- 2-8, Lynn Knippers, May 1966
- 2-4, Max Summers, June 1965
- 1-13, J. W. McFatter, April 1964

BREAM

- 2-8, Grant M. Kelly, 1959
- 2-2, Otis Marshall, May 1966
- 2-1, Dee Murphy, April 1957
- 1-14, Fernin Grigsby, 1947
- 1-14, E. T. George, May 1967
- 1-11, Fred W. Elliott, April 1962
- 1-9, W. E. Morley, July 1953
- 1-8, Bob Searce, Feb. 1954

CATFISH

- 46-0, E. F. Whitteborg, June 1966

CRAPPIE (sacalait)

- 4-4, Welzie Garrett, April 1950
- 3-14, Pat Cullen, March 1960
- 3-13½, Nellie Keller, Feb. 1964
- 3-3, E. Lawrence Klein, April 1953
- 2-14, Leander Frey, April 1953
- 2-12, Mabel Slaton, April 1964

Salt Water Records

COBIA

- 149-12, Garnett L. Caudell, May 1965
- 82-8, Harry Morris, May 1966
- 75-0, James G. McMurphy, May 1967
- 73-0, Jack Dart, May 1954
- 68-0, Robert G. Hebert, May 1964
- 66-0, Joseph Boudreaux, July 1966
- 65-9, R. L. Watson, Jr., May 1967
- 65-0, Miss Pat Morvant, July 1962
- 64-4, Watson Merrit, July 1956
- 62-0, Joseph C. Cronan, July 1966
- 62-0, Lloyd J. Derise, July 1967

AMBERJACK

- 83-0, George Tucker, July 1959
- 75-12, F. C. Buchanan, June 1965
- 64-4, Mrs. Harold Harleaux, July 1965
- 63-0, Don Lyman, July 1958
- 62-0, Mrs. Edwin Loe, July 1958
- 55-0, Albert J. Waguespack, July 1965
- 54-8, Raymond Miramon, Aug. 1963
- 53-4, Albert Steen, July 1963
- 51-8, Frank Ecker, Aug. 1963
- 49-0, Myrton Landry, July 1967

BARRACUDA

- 40-0, J. J. Jones, Sept. 1966
- 38-4, Nolan McCraime, July 1967
- 37-8, John Doffer, April 1965
- 37-8, Richard Glynn, July 1965
- 36-12, C. F. Carter, Jr., July 1959
- 36-8, Frank Heard, July 1958
- 35-0, Myrton Landry, May 1967
- 34-8, Frank Van Sickle, April 1965
- 34-0, B. O. Hay, Aug. 1965

BONITO

- 24-9, Stirling Couch, July 1949
- 23-0, Charles Andres III, July 1949
- 20-0, Mrs. Lester Plaisance, July 1959